

## CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. An apparatus for use in an aquarium, said apparatus comprising:
  - 5 (a) a rail;
  - (b) attachment means for attaching the rail to an aquarium so that the rail runs along an inside surface of a wall of the aquarium; and
  - (c) a dock element that is buoyant and that has sliding means for attaching to the rail and for allowing the dock element to freely slide  
10 along the rail.
2. An apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the attachment means comprises at least one suction cup.
- 15 3. An apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the attachment means is capable of attaching the rail to an underwater point on the inside surface of the wall of the aquarium.
- 20 4. An apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising a second rail, wherein the attachment means also is for attaching the second rail to the aquarium so that the second rail runs along the inside surface of the wall of the aquarium, and wherein the sliding means also is for permitting the dock element to slide along the second rail, as well as the rail.
- 25 5. An apparatus according to claim 4, wherein the second rail is attached to the rail.
- 30 6. An apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the sliding means comprises at least one hole through the dock element for accommodating the rail.

7. An apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the dock element comprises a platform that is approximately planar and a ramp that is oriented at a downward angle to the platform.

5 8. An apparatus according to claim 7, wherein the ramp has an overall density that is greater than the overall density of the platform and that is greater than the density of water.

9. An apparatus according to claim 1, wherein at least a portion of a  
10 top surface of the dock element is contoured.

10. An apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the attachment means comprises a hook configured to hook to a top edge of the aquarium.

15 11. An apparatus for use in an aquarium, said apparatus comprising:  
(a) a rail;  
(b) support means for supporting the rail so that the rail extends into the aquarium; and  
(c) a dock element that is buoyant and that has sliding means for  
20 attaching to the rail and for allowing the dock element to freely slide along the rail.

12. An apparatus according to claim 11, further comprising a second rail, wherein the support means also is for supporting the second rail so that the  
25 second rail extends into the aquarium, and wherein the sliding means also is for permitting the dock element to slide along the second rail, as well as the rail.

13. An apparatus according to claim 12, wherein the second rail is attached to and runs in parallel with the rail.

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14. An apparatus according to claim 11, wherein the dock element comprises a platform that is approximately planar and a ramp that is oriented at a downward angle to the platform.

15. An apparatus according to claim 14, wherein the ramp has an overall density that is greater than the overall density of the platform and that is greater than the density of water.

5           16. An apparatus according to claim 11, wherein the rail runs in a substantially vertical orientation when supported by the support means.

17. An apparatus according to claim 11, wherein the support means comprises at least one suction cup.

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18. An apparatus according to claim 11, wherein the sliding means comprises at least one hole through the dock element for accommodating the rail.

15           19. An apparatus according to claim 11, wherein at least a portion of a top surface of the dock element is contoured.

20. An apparatus according to claim 11, wherein the support means comprises a hook configured to hook to a top edge of the aquarium.